Provided that no licence shall be required for storage of carbide—

(a) in any quantity not exceeding five kilogrammes if it is kept in prescribed receptacles each containing not more than one kilogram;

(b) in any quantity exceeding five kilogrammes but not exceeding two hundred kilogrammes, subject to the following conditions namely:

(i) the receptacles shall be stored in a dry and well ventilated storage shed, which may form a part of or attached to a building provided that it is separated therefrom by a substantial partition and the only means of access to it is from outside air;

(ii) due precautions shall be taken to prevent unauthorised persons from having access to the receptacles;

(iii) the receptacles shall be kept securely closed except while taking out carbide therefrom.

Development of Commerce and Industry in North East States

26. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whetrher Government have any plan to develop commerce and industry in North Eastern States in coming three years; and

(b) if, so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) With a view to develop commerce and industry in North Eastern States an industrial policy exclusively for North Eastern States has been announced by the Central Government on 24.12.97.

(b) Details given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Cabinet approved a new industrial policy for the North Eastern Region on November 20, 1997. Ministry of Industry notified this Policy on December 24, 1997. The salient features of the policy are as follows:

1. Expenditure on Growth Centres, up to Rs. 15 crores would be met through Central assistance.

2. Funding pattern for Integrated Infrastructure Development Centres (IIDCs) changed from 2:3 between Government of India and SIDBI to 4:1. The Government of India funds would be in the nature of grant.

3. Transport subsidy scheme has been extended by 7 years upto 31.3.2007 and amount to be disbursed through North Eastern Development Finance Corporation.

4. Industries located in the Growth Centres would be given capital investment subsidy at the rate of 15% on Plant & Machinery subject to a ceiling of Rs. 30 lakhs.

5. Growth Centres & IIDCs become tax-free zones for income tax and excise duty for a period of 10 years. Certain high growth potential industries have also been given the tax-free status irrespective of the location in the North-East.

6. An interest subsiby of 3% on the working capital loans would be provided for a period of ten years after the commencement of production.

7. Comprehensive Insurance Scheme for new industrial units has been put in place.

Notification issued for all aforesaid major items envisaged in the Policy.

Extension of Commerce in N.E. States

27. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had a dialogue with Bangladesh Government for extension of commerce with N.E. States and with other parts of our country;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether any greement has been arrived at; and

(d) if so, what are the points of agreement?